

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME

Kaylah R.

Grade 12

Columbus Grove High School

As a senior this year, and looking back on all the things that I have gone through in my life, I realized that I was not taking enough time out to stop and appreciate the little things that come naturally. The little things I am talking about are my laws of life. I believe the laws of life for me to get through life are being thankful, having respect, being open minded, and having determination.

Thankful, thankful is my first law of life. Being thankful is probably the best word anyone would use to describe me. I say that because last year as a junior in high school, I was in a really bad car accident. I broke my back, my finger, and found out that my right kidney did not work. When the doctor came in to see my family and me, he said that I was the luckiest patient he has ever had. He said that I was less than a centimeter from being paralyzed. He told my family and me that if I would have broken another vertebra I would have damaged my spinal cord, and would be paralyzed from the waste down. I was in shock. I stayed in the hospital for a month and was out of school for five months. I was not allowed to walk the entire time I was in the hospital. When I was released, I still had to walk with a walker. When I was finally allowed to walk on my own, it was the greatest feeling ever. Not many teenagers my age would say that the one thing they are thankful for is being able to walk, but I am. Every morning I wake up, I thank God for not taking that privilege away from me and giving me another shot at life. The doctor told me that I would never be able to play sports anymore, which was my life. I lived to play basketball, I even slept with a basketball, but I realized that being able to walk meant more to me than being able to play basketball. I had to go through therapy for three months to make sure that I was walking the proper way. Many people take walking for granted, and they do not realize how special it is until it is almost taken away from them. That is why I am thankful to be able to walk.

My second law of life, which is very important to me, is respect. Since my accident, I have come to realize that life is too short to be mean and disrespectful. My family helped me become a better person. They were there for me from the beginning to the end. They never gave up on me, and if anything, they kept me going each and every day. They made me realize that I should respect life and be happy and I was one of God's lucky ones. I also realize that if I do not have respect for my accomplishments, and myself then how can I respect other people and the things they do in life?

The third law of life that I feel is important would be to be open-minded. I think that being open-minded will allow me to see different opportunities from different aspects. Maybe those aspects could benefit me or maybe harm me, but I have to stay open-minded to know the difference between the two. After my accident, I made a pact with myself that I would be open to anything new that would come my way. I only live once, so I have to make every opportunity worthwhile and live my life to the fullest. If I were not open-minded, I might miss out on a major opportunity that could change my life for the better. I believe that staying open-minded will help me see my future more clearly and help me get through life a lot more easily. I do not

think that if I were not in my accident I would as open-minded. I am very thankful to God for giving me another chance to live my life to the fullest.

Determination is my last law of life. I am a very determined person. I will never give up on something I think I can do. I was supposed to stay in therapy for an entire year, but my therapist told me if I worked hard enough I could be walking in six months. I walked in three. I worked my hardest each and every day, and I proved that determination can get me through anything. When the doctor told me that I couldn't play basketball anymore, I was devastated. I made it a point to prove the doctor wrong. After I got out of the hospital, I tried to play ball again, but I couldn't. It was the first time that I had the passion and the desire to want to do something, but I couldn't because my body wouldn't allow me to do it. The doctor told me that if I wanted to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life, to go ahead and try to play basketball again. He told me that if I got hit in the wrong spot, I would be paralyzed. I was determined that I was not going to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life. Giving up basketball was one of the hardest things I ever had to do, but being able to walk was even more important to me. I had already proved that I was determined by being able to walk again when the odds were against me. All I have to do is set my mind to it and anything is possible.

Laws of life are a necessity to all people. I have to have them to keep myself going and to get me through life. Being thankful, having respect, having determination, and being open-minded are what's really important to me and what gets me through each and every day. I would encourage all people to find their laws of life, stick to them, remind themselves of what is really important, and remember what really matters to them. I wake up each and every morning and say my laws of life to myself just so I don't forget everything I have been through and to know that I am grateful.